

X-FACTOR

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X-FACTOR

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

WHAT'S HAPPENED UP UNTIL NOW



AFTER HAVING ABSORBED JAMIE MADROX, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D., INTO HIMSELF, JAMIE PRIME CONTINUES ON HIS SOJOURN TO TRACK DOWN OTHER WAYWARD DUPES AND REABSORB THEM, THUS MAKING HIMSELF WHOLE.

SIRYN AND MONET, ON A TRIP TO PARIS, FIND THEMSELVES DRAWN INTO A DEMONSTRATION WHERE RABID MUTANT HATERS ARE THREATENING FORMER MUTANTS. SIRYN AND MONET ENGAGE THE CROWD WITH FORMIDABLE FORCE, ONLY TO BE CONFRONTED BY THE AUTHORITIES. WHILE IN JAIL WAITING FOR THEIR ATTORNEY, OUR HEROINES LEARN THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS RETURNED TO THE EX-MUTANTS' HAVEN, SETTING FIRE TO IT AND OSTENSIBLY KILLING THEM ALL. MONET TOOK VIOLENT REVENGE UPON ONE OF THE KEY INSTIGATORS.

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BE FRUITFUL...AND MULTIPLY.

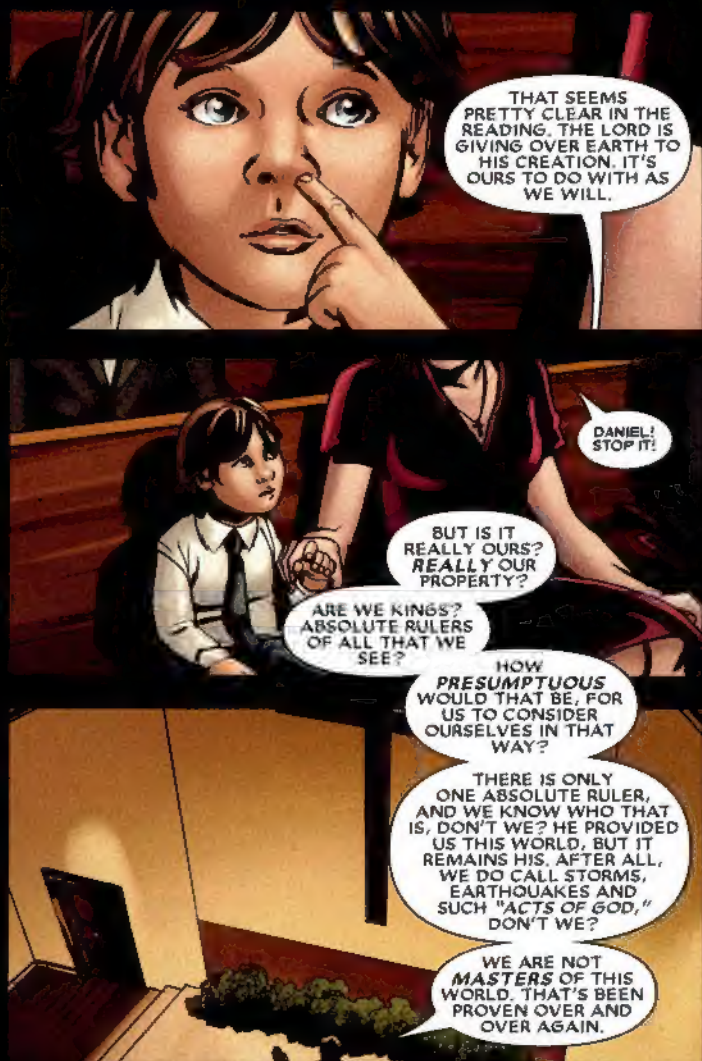
St. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TODAY'S
SERMON:
MAN'S
DOMINION.



THAT WAS THE INSTRUCTION THE LORD GAVE ADAM AND EVE IN GENESIS 1:28. "BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY, AND REPLENISH THE EARTH, AND SUBDUCE IT..."

"...AND HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, AND OVER THE FOWL OF THE AIR, AND OVER EVERY LIVING THING THAT MOVETH UPON THE EARTH."



THAT SEEMS PRETTY CLEAR IN THE READING. THE LORD IS GIVING OVER EARTH TO HIS OURS TO DO WITH AS WE WILL.

DANIEL! STOP IT!

BUT IS IT REALLY OURS? REALLY OUR PROPERTY?

ARE WE KINGS? ABSOLUTE RULERS OF ALL THAT WE SEE?

HOW PRESUMPTUOUS WOULD THAT BE, FOR US TO CONSIDER OURSELVES IN THAT WAY?

THERE IS ONLY ONE ABSOLUTE RULER, AND WE KNOW WHO THAT IS, DON'T WE? HE PROVIDED US THIS WORLD, BUT IT REMAINS HIS. AFTER ALL, WE DO CALL STORMS, EARTHQUAKES AND SUCH "ACTS OF GOD," DON'T WE?

WE ARE NOT MASTERS OF THIS WORLD. THAT'S BEEN PROVEN OVER AND OVER AGAIN.



NOW THERE ARE SOME WHO THINK THAT HAVING DOMINION MEANS THAT WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WISH.

"DOMINION," AFTER ALL, MEANS "ABSOLUTE OWNERSHIP."

BUT WE DO NOT "OWN" THE EARTH. IT EXISTED LONG BEFORE...



I HAVE TO ADMIT, HE CUTS A
FINE FIGURE UP THERE. HE
LOOKS CALM, CONFIDENT,
SERENE IN HIS CONVICTIONS...

...EVERYTHING,
IN SHORT, THAT
I'M NOT.

AT LEAST, HE'S THAT WAY UNTIL
I WALK INTO THE BACK OF HIS
CHURCH AND BRING HIS SERMON
SCREAMING TO A HALT. NOW HE
LOOKS CONFUSED, UNCERTAIN...

...EVERYTHING,
IN SHORT,
THAT I AM.

GUESS MY WORK
HERE IS DONE.

EXCEPT, OF COURSE, FOR
THE PART ABOUT ENDING HIS
EXISTENCE. THAT'S NEXT.

NO DOMINION

PETER DAVID WRITER	PABLO RAIMONDI ART	BRIAN REBER COLORS	VC'S CORY PETT LETTERS
SEAN RYAN ASSISTANT EDITOR	ANDY SCHMIDT EDITOR	JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF	DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER



MY...MY FRIENDS, I... MY APOLOGIES, I... FEEL UNWELL... PLEASE, FORGIVE ME...



FORGIVE ME.



GREAT. WE GOT A RUNNER.



I DOUBT HE'S JUST GOING TO HOLE UP IN HIS OFFICE. HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO BEAT A RETREAT OUT THE BACK.



JUST DELAYING THE INEVITABLE, THOUGH.



PITY. THIS NICE, QUIET CHURCH UP IN VERMONT... ISN'T A BAD PLACE TO LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE.

BUT I'M THE ONE WHO GAVE HIM THAT LIFE, AND IT WAS ON LOAN AT THAT. SO...



AH, HERE HE COMES. THIS SHOULDN'T BE TOO--

JOHN?

JOHN, HONEY, WHAT'S WRONG?



THE WAY YOU JUST RAN OUT OF THERE...

AND...AND WHEN DID YOU CHANGE INTO THOSE CLOTHES? WHERE DID *THOSE* COME FROM?




YOU DON'T FEEL FEVERISH, DID YOU THROW UP?

NOT, UH...NOT RECENTLY...



WELL, LET'S GET YOU HOME. THE WAY YOU RAN OUT OF THERE, EVERYONE'S WORRIED SICK ABOUT YOU.

IF I DON'T TAKE CARE OF YOU, EVERYONE'LL BE SAYING, "WHAT KIND OF WIFE IS SHE?"



I PICK NOSE AND MOMMY MAD. YOU MAD, DADDY?



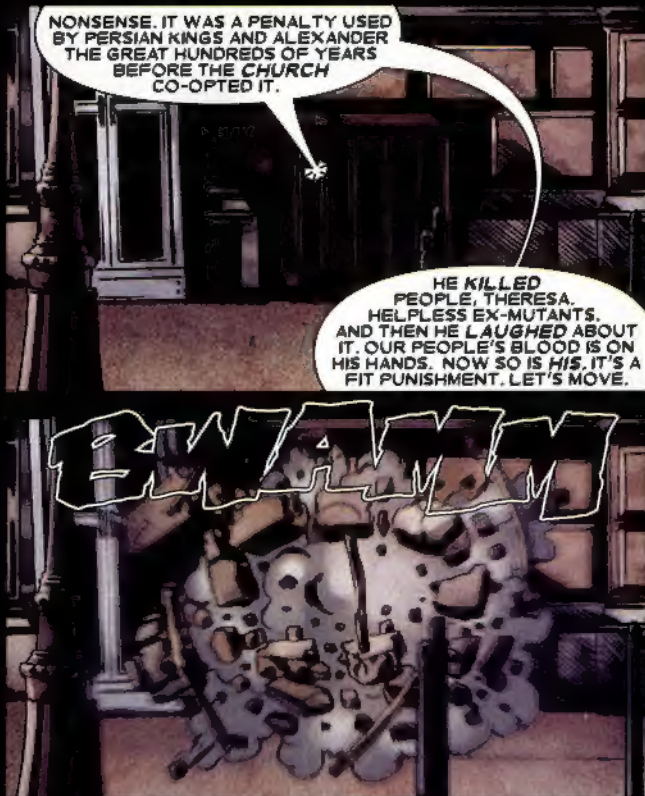
MY GOD.



PARIS...

Mon Dieu... aidez-moi...

MONET... THAT'S... THAT'S HORRIFIC... NOT TO MENTION SACRILEGIOUS...



NONSENSE. IT WAS A PENALTY USED BY PERSIAN KINGS AND ALEXANDER THE GREAT HUNDREDS OF YEARS BEFORE THE CHURCH CO-OPTED IT.

HE KILLED PEOPLE, THERESA. HELPLESS EX-MUTANTS. AND THEN HE LAUGHED ABOUT IT. OUR PEOPLE'S BLOOD IS ON HIS HANDS. NOW SO IS HIS. IT'S A FIT PUNISHMENT. LET'S MOVE.

BLAMMM



HUNH. WHAT? NOTHING.



BLAM

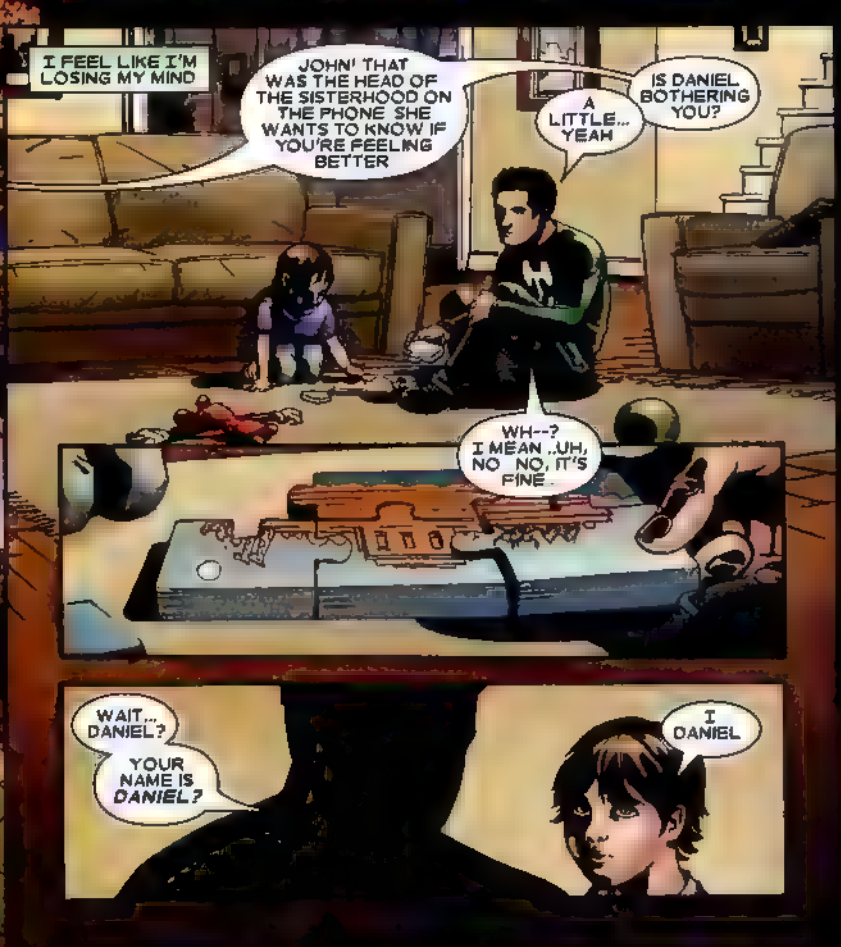


NEVER MIND. IT'S MOOT NOW.

DON'T MOVE!









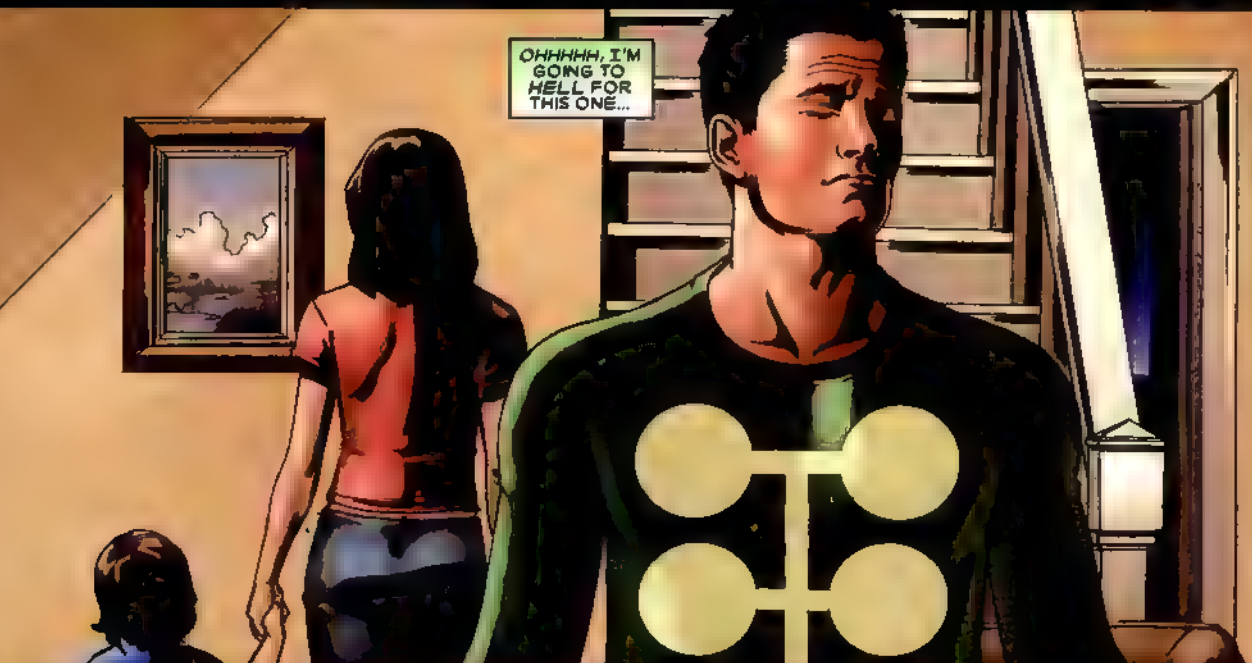
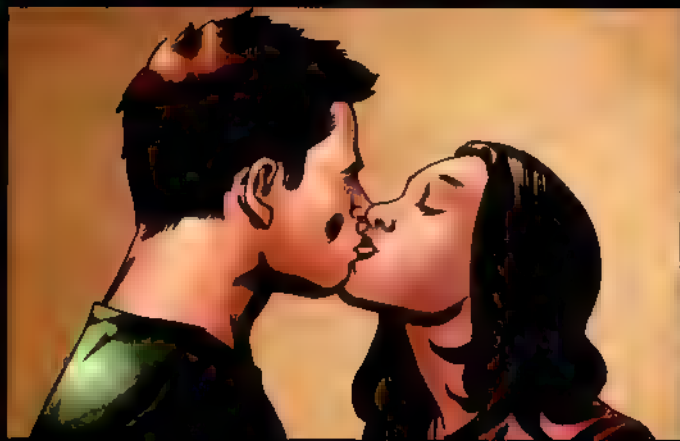
OOOOOKAY...
TIME FOR
SOMEONE'S
BATH

IS IT
MINE? 'CAUSE
I REALLY DON'T
FEEL LIKE IT--

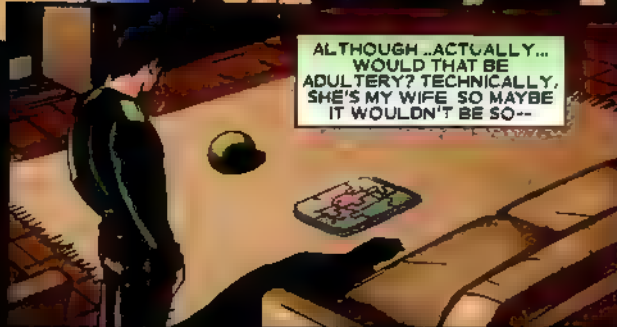


TELL YOU WHAT' MAYBE LATER,
DURING DANIEL'S NAPTME, WE'LL
TAKE A BATH TOGETHER GET
YOU NICE AND CLEAN

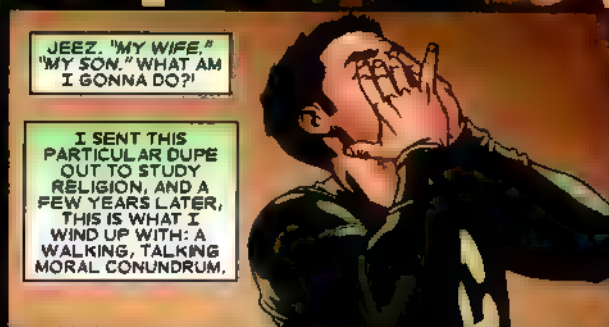
THAT...
SOUNDS
GREAT



OHHHHH, I'M
GOING TO
HELL FOR
THIS ONE...



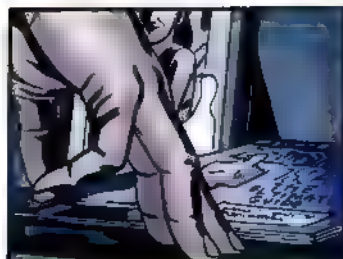
ALTHOUGH...ACTUALLY...
WOULD THAT BE
ADULTERY? TECHNICALLY,
SHE'S MY WIFE SO MAYBE
IT WOULDN'T BE SO--



JEEZ. "MY WIFE,"
"MY SON." WHAT AM
I GONNA DO?

I SENT THIS
PARTICULAR DUPE
OUT TO STUDY
RELIGION, AND A
FEW YEARS LATER,
THIS IS WHAT I
WIND UP WITH: A
WALKING, TALKING
MORAL CONUNDRUM.

THIS MUST
BE HIS STUDY...
MY STUDY... HIS
STUDY



AND ACCORDING TO THIS
SUBSCRIPTION LABEL, I'M JOHN
MADDOX... AT LEAST HERE.

JOHN MADDOX,
FAMILY MAN

THIS WOMAN... SUSAN...
SHE THINKS SHE MARRIED
A NICE, NORMAL MAN

SHE'S LIVING A LIE.
HE'S A DUPLICATE OF
ME. WHATEVER HE'S TOLD
HER ABOUT HIMSELF,
IT CAN'T POSSIBLY
INCLUDE THE TRUTH.

OF ALL
THE--

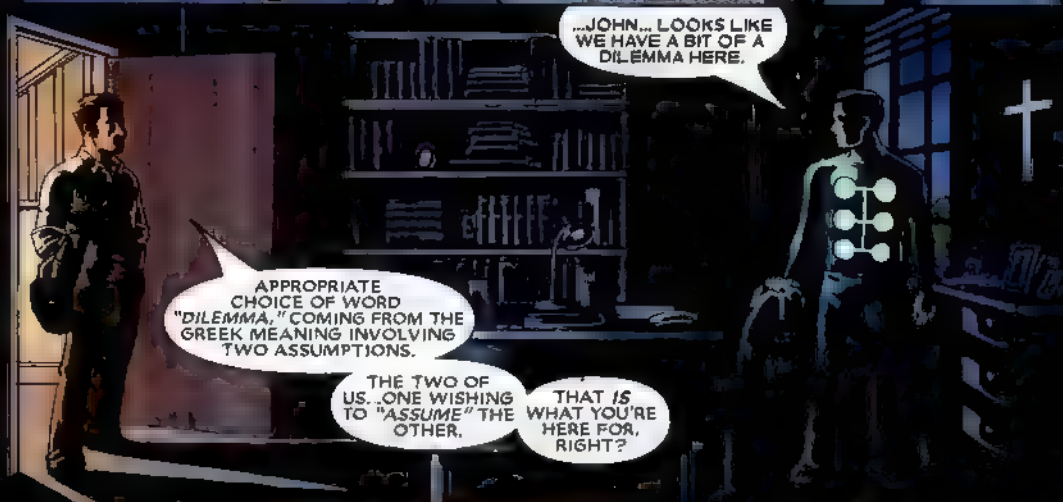
PUT IT
DOWN

THAT'S MY
WIFE'S PICTURE
AND I'M ASKING
YOU TO PUT IT
DOWN.





OKAY.
SO...



...JOHN... LOOKS LIKE
WE HAVE A BIT OF A
DILEMMA HERE.

APPROPRIATE
CHOICE OF WORD
"DILEMMA," COMING FROM THE
GREEK MEANING INVOLVING
TWO ASSUMPTIONS.

THE TWO OF
US. ONE WISHING
TO "ASSUME" THE
OTHER.

THAT IS
WHAT YOU'RE
HERE FOR,
RIGHT?



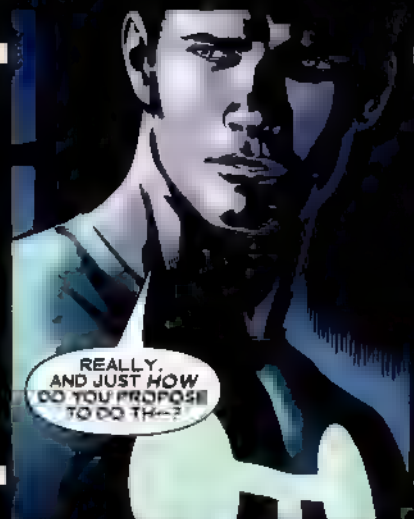
PRETTY
MUCH.
YOU DO
LIKE WORDPLAY.
DON'T YOU?



YES AND
I LIKE MY
LIFE
IT'S NOT
YOUR LIFE
IT'S MINE.

IT'S THE LIFE
YOU COULD HAVE
HAD, IF YOU'D EVER
HAD THE PATIENCE
TO WALK THIS PATH.

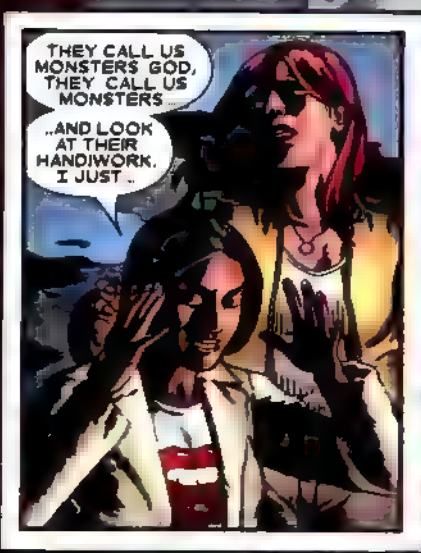
AND I'LL
FIGHT TO
KEEP IT



REALLY.
AND JUST HOW
DO YOU PROPOSE
TO DO THAT?



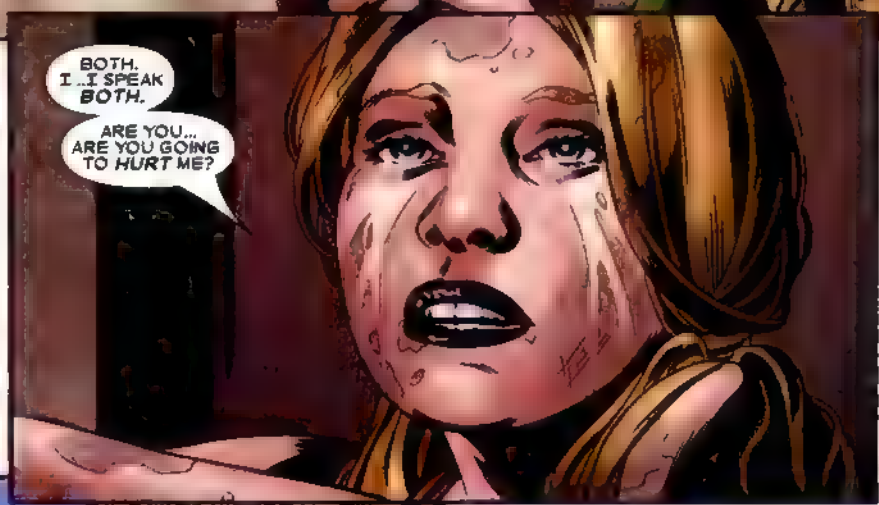
OH.





PARLEZ-VOUS
FRANCAIS .?

OR
ENGLISH? HOW
ABOUT



BOTH.
I ...I SPEAK
BOTH.

ARE YOU...
ARE YOU GOING
TO HURT ME?

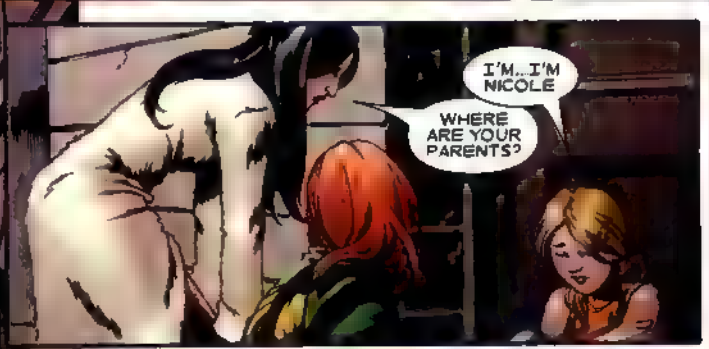


NO.
NOT AT
ALL.

I'M
MONET...

LIKE THE
ARTIST?

KIND OF.
AND THIS IS
THERESA. WHO
ARE YOU?



I'M...I'M
NICOLE

WHERE
ARE YOUR
PARENTS?



THEY'RE
THEY'RE

THE
POLICE...TOOK
THEIR BODIES
AWAY
THEY'RE...

I HAVE
NO ONE IN THE
WORLD

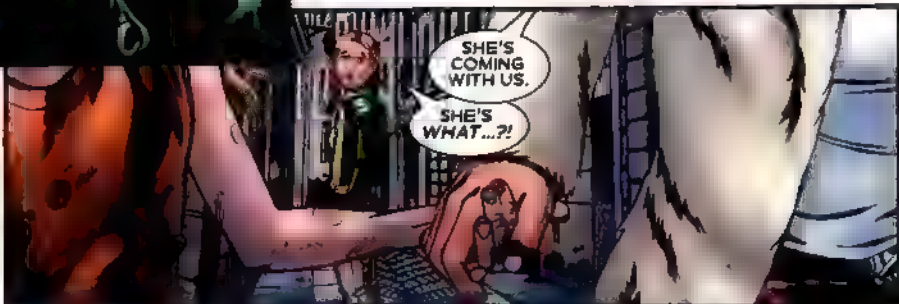


WELL...WELL
DON'T WORRY, HONEY
WE'LL BRING YOU TO THE
PROPER AUTHORITIES
WE'LL FIND THE--



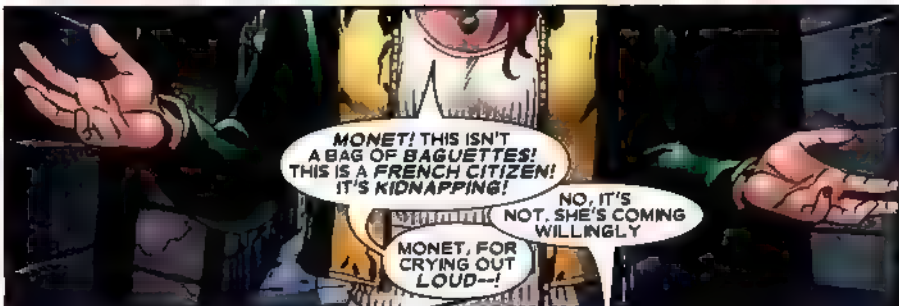
SCREW
THAT

WHAT?
WHAT DO
YOU--?



SHE'S
COMING
WITH US.

SHE'S
WHAT...?!



MONET! THIS ISN'T
A BAG OF BAGUETTES!
THIS IS A FRENCH CITIZEN!
IT'S KIDNAPPING!

NO, IT'S
NOT. SHE'S COMING
WILLINGLY

MONET, FOR
CRYING OUT
LOUD--!



WHAT KIND OF
LIFE DOES SHE HAVE
TO LOOK FORWARD
TO HERE?

THAT'S NOT
OUR DECISION
TO MAKE!

WHO SAID
"OUR?" I'M MAKING
IT. AGREE OR
DISAGREE AS YOU
SEE FIT



GOOD PLAN,
MONET. BECAUSE
WE'RE NOT IN ENOUGH
TROUBLE THAT WE
CAN'T MAKE A
LITTLE MORE



LOOKS
LIKE I'M IN
TROUBLE,
HUH.

YOU THINK
YOU'RE IN
TROUBLE?

I'VE LIVED IN
TERROR OF THIS DAY
BUT I'M I'M READY FOR
IT BECAUSE I'M
FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE.
MY FAMILY'S LIFE

OH, PLEASE
WHEN I ABSORB
YOU, *THEY* WON'T
DISAPPEAR

YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT,
DO YOU? MY FAMILY WILL
END BECAUSE I WON'T BE
THERE FOR THEM ANYMORE!
AND THEY WON'T KNOW
WHY

BECAUSE
YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO EXPLAIN IT, ARE YOU?
THERE'S NO WAY YOU
COULD SO YOU'RE JUST
GOING TO HIT AND RUN,
RIGHT? RIGHT?

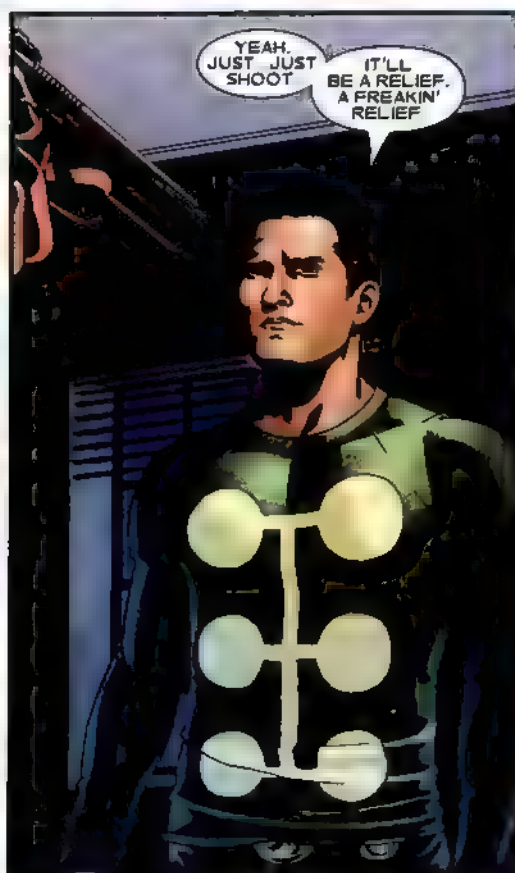
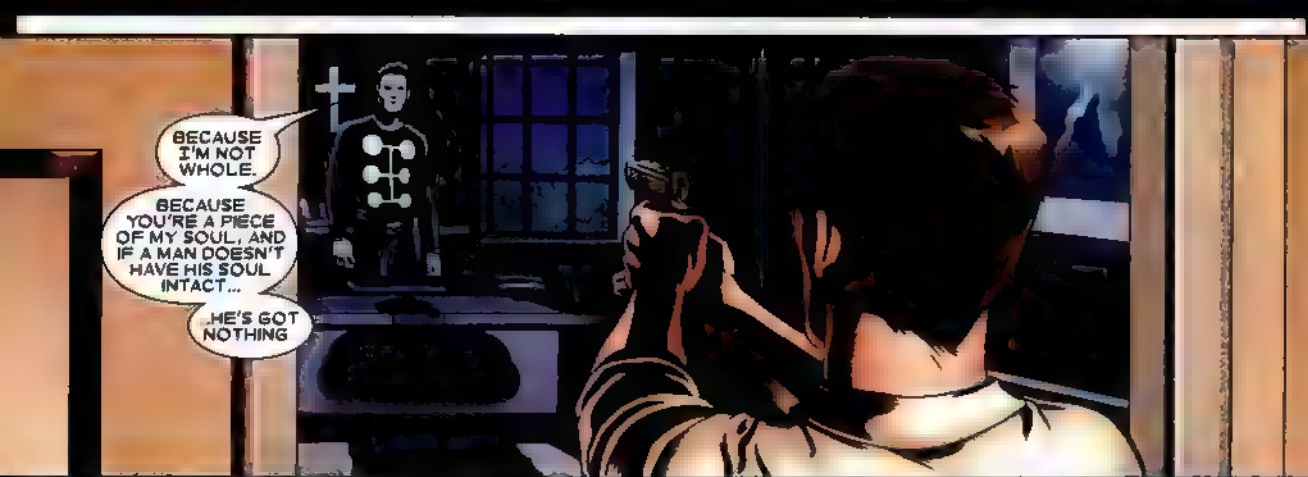
THAT'S
PRETTY MUCH
THE PLAN,
YEAH.

HERE'S THE
THING: YOU'RE NOT
SAFE OVER THERE,
BECAUSE I CAN JUST
REACH OUT AND ABSORB
YOU FROM ACROSS
THE ROOM

MAYBE.
OR MAYBE I SHOOT
THE SECOND I FEEL IT
HAPPENING MAYBE I
GET LUCKY

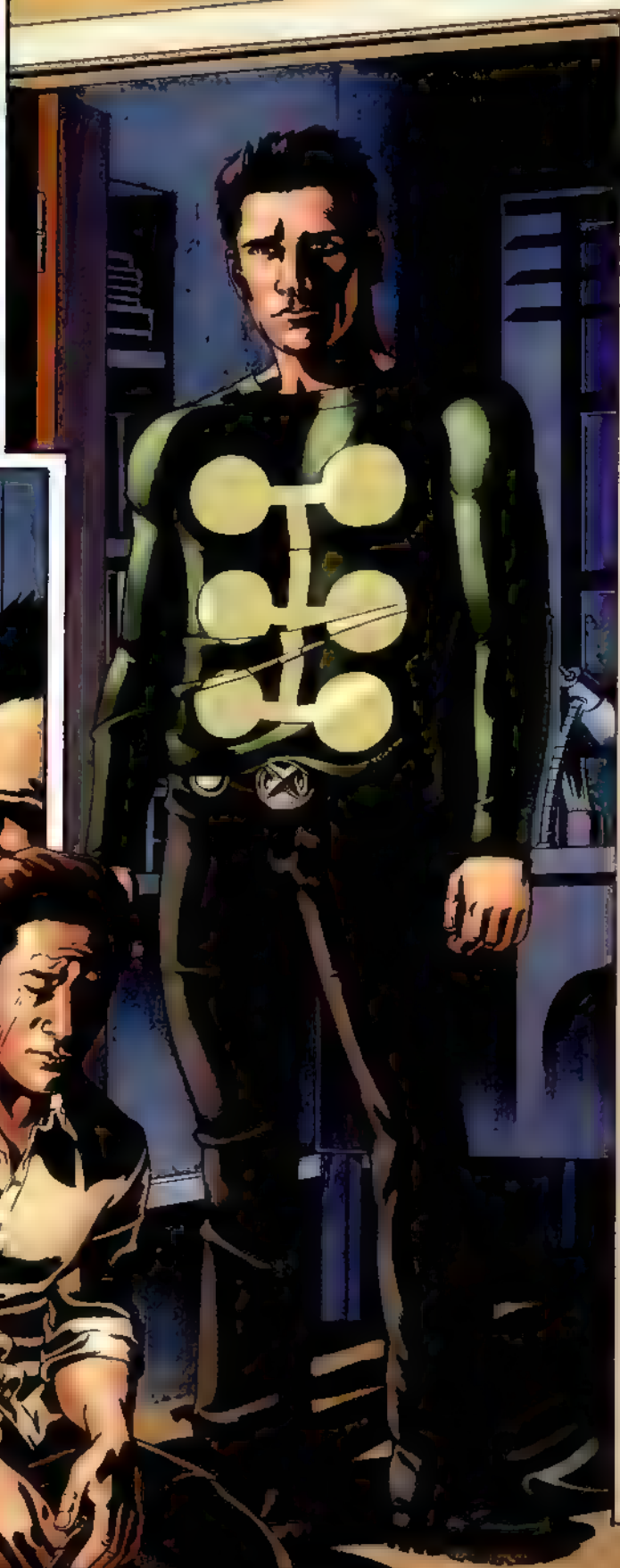
MAYBE MAYBE,
IF YOU'RE REALLY
LUCKY, YOU GET TO
BE A MURDERER. OR
WOULD IT BE MURDER/
SUICIDE? OR JUST
PLAIN--

WIPE THAT
SMIRK OFF YOUR
FACE GO AWAY!
WHY CAN'T YOU
JUST
WHY
ARE YOU DOING
THIS?





YOU
HAVE DOMINION
OVER ME
MAKE IT
QUICK.





"WHAT
HAPPENED,
SY?"

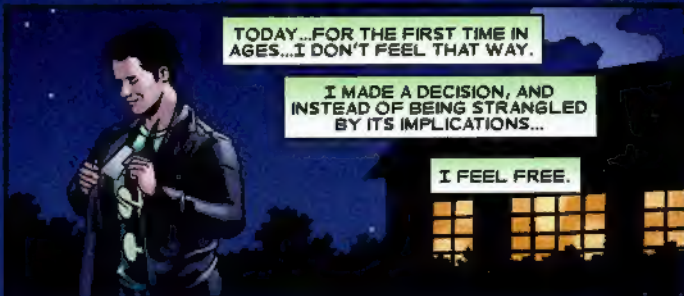
"BEATS THE HELL OUT OF ME!
ONE MINUTE POLICE CARS WERE
MOVING IN TO INTERCEPT ...

"...AND THE NEXT, THERE WAS
THIS...THIS **BLINDING LIGHT**...AND
POOF! THE COPS WERE GONE!

"MAYBE WE SHOULD
GO BACK...FIGURE OUT
WHAT HAPPENED..."

"AND I SAY WE GET THE
HELL OUT OF HERE WHILE
WE CAN AND FIGURE IT OUT
LATER. AND IF THAT SOUNDS
COLD, TERRY, THEN EXCUSE
THE HELL OUT OF ME, BUT I'M
NOT FEELING ESPECIALLY
GENEROUS RIGHT NOW."

"JOHN? HERE'S
YOUR SON, ALL
FRESHLY
SCRUBBED..."



Diesel Industry
DCP Scan

